that proper help was not given to certain states , especially to Bihar. What is this concept of proper help ? It has not been clarified that whether the Government or commonman of Bihar, have not shown interest in this programme. I have not only visited West Bengal but other states also. I found that people were confused and there is commotion about immunisation programme. My state is just adjacent to Bihar and as per my information a large number of people participated in this programme. But our people lack awareness. I would like to know as to whether the Government propose to revise this scheme and before revising the scheme or taking any step in this regard whether the Government propose to create awareness among people; and if so how ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, we have tried our maximum to create awareness among the public through the electronic media, Press and putting up posters and other things. We have done our best in that regard. That is why, we could achieve 90-95 per cent success.

In Bihar, infrastructural facilities may be lacking and that is why, the progress is not to the extent as we expected. When we would be taking up immunisation programme in the coming December and January, we will see that the existing backlog is covered.

[Translation]

DR. RAM KRISHNA KUSMARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not going to ask about serious diseases like T.B. or cancer but I would like to know as to what measures are being taken by the Government to check the growing menace of manquitoes. Mr. Speaker, Sir, mosquitoes are in Parliament also and bite us. What measures are being taken for their eradication.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, the subject has to be tackled by the State Government. We will subsidize and support them by giving whatever help they require . . .*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, I am not asking any supplementary. I am only submitting that, for quite some time, the subject of health has not come in for detailed discussion in the House. I would very much like the matter to be taken up in some form or the other. This matter has not really been taken up seriously and in all detail that is necessary. There are so many schemes all over the world. We are running against a particular deadline, 'Health for all by 2000 A.D.'. Where is it ? So, we have to see where the country stands at the moment healthwise and for that, I would request for a detailed debate.

MR. SPEAKER : In fact, I myself suggested in the BAC this time that this should be one of the Ministries which should be taken up for discussing the Demands for Grants. Unfortunately, the Minister was away in an interantional conference and that is how, we could not include it.

12.00 hrs.

But I also feel very strongly that we should have a discussion – I do not know in what form we can discuss it –on this, subject to the availability of time.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Not, now. I do not think we can discuss it in this Session because there is no use discussing it for half-an-hour or for an hour. There has to be a full day's debate, may be in the next Session, because there are so many aspects of health which have not really come up in all its details before the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I do agree with it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Rural Sanitation Programme

*504. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of assistance being provided by the Union Government for Rural Sanitation Programme during the year 1996-96;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to provide additional Central assistance for attaining the targets fixed by the State Governments; and

(c) if so, the detaiils thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA) : (a) An amount of Rs. 60.51 crore was provided by the Central Government to the implementing agencies under Central Rural Sanitation Programme during the year 1996-97.

(b) and (c) The Central allocation under Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme for 1997-98 is Rs. 100.00 crore.

[English]

Birth Rate

*505. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of programmes being chalked out to bring down the birth rate in the country;

(b) whether the Government has fixed any target to bring down the birth rate for every thousand population during the next five years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have directed the State Governments of impart advice to people for controlling the birth rates; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The Family Welfare Programme provides counselling and medical services for better health of mothers and children to influence people's reporductive behaviour. It also provides information and services for different method of contraception, to bring down the Birth Rate in the country.

(b) and (c) No demographic goals have been fixed so far for the IX Plan.

(d) and (e) The Family Welfare Programme includes motivating the people to accept family planning methods appropriate to them. Such counselling is done in the PHCs and rural sub-Centres through doctors and health workers as well as through media and NGOs.

Geo-Synthetics

*506. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the geo-sythetics, the new construction material is being successfully used for various civil enginerring works including construction of roads in U.S. and other countries;

(b) whether India has started its research and technology in the field of geo-sythetics;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken for setting up of geo-sythetic manufacturing industries in India especially in hill areas & natural disaster prone areas ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. Considerable research has been carried out by various Institutions in India. Geo-synthetics has been used in construction of reinforced soil wall, drains, overlay and erosion prevention measures, etc. in limited cases because of its high costs.

(d) Setting up of manufacturing units in private sector depends upon market economy and demand for the material. There is no proposal on the part of the Government to start any such unit.

Linking of Rivers

*507. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high-level 9-Member National Commission has been constituted to link all big and small rivers of the country;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference;

(c) whether the experts and scientists have also been included in the proposed National Commission;

(d) by the what time the Government have asked them to submit their report;

(e) whether the Government have also conducted a survey to use the contaminated ground water in various States;

(f) whether the Government are committed for development of ground and surface water resources and whether any amount has been earmarked for these projects; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the provision of funds made therefore alongwith names of rivers to be taken up for inter linking ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) A National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan was set up by the Ministry of Water Resources vide O.M. No.2/11/96-BM/645-661, dt. 13.9.1996 with Dr. G.V.K. Rao as the Chairman. However, he resigned on health grounds. Subsequently Shri C.H. Hanumantha Rao was appointed as the Chairman vide O.M. No.2/11/96-BM/965-985, dt. 22.11.1996. He also expressed his inability to continue on account of other preoccupations. Thereafter, Dr. S.R. Hashim, Member, Planning Commission was appointed as the Chairman of the Commission vide O.M. No.2/11/96-BM/182-206, dt. 14.2.1997.

The present Composition of the Commission is as under :-

1. Dr. S.R. Hashim : Chairman
Member,
Planning Commission